

CALLED TO RELATIONSHIP

renewing our relationship with God; ourselves; one another



This session explores the theme of relationships - nurturing and deepening the ones we have, with those around us, along with widening our 'scope of concern' beyond our immediate neighbours, to the 'stranger' and 'foreigner'. The example of the Good Samaritan calls us to put love into action in our relationships with everyone.



Reflection Points:

- In what ways do you 'stay connected' to Jesus?
- How is your relationship with God? How is that affecting your life?
- How is it that, through the lord we receive and increase in love 'for one another and for all'?

The parable of the Good Samaritan: 'Which one of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' The expert in the law replied, 'the one who had mercy on him'. Jesus told him 'Go and do likewise'
- Luke 10: 37

Reflection:

Watch this clip and then spend some time discussing with others or reflecting on the questions below.

Daryl Davis Did the Unthinkable: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waVrJEIfahc>

Discussion Questions:

How did Daryl Davis touch/change the hearts of Ku Klux Klan members?

**Where do we need to build bridges in our society?
(Between race, gender, across socio-economic class)
How can we have difficult conversations (with great love)?**

**Where do we find opportunities 'to plant the seed'?
How can we help others overcome fear?**

Relationship

Why are relationships so important to us? As humans we are social animals, made for community. We all need attention, sympathy, shared joy, love and friendship (as well as the basics of food, shelter and clothing) – may we all learn the importance of care once again, caring for one another and providing attention and support in a sustained way.

Can we see that we, the human family, and all of creation, are in relationship with one another? We are called to recognise this relationship, this interconnectedness, and see ourselves as one family - God's children. That means that we must respect and uphold the dignity of those around us, *and* those far away. Our neighbour *and* the stranger. We cannot function without one another. During this time, we are called to see beyond our own narrow vision of the world, to a world that is interconnected.

Activity and discussion Questions

Pick up any object in the room. Think about how many people may have touched that time before it reached you. Draw out a flow chart of the process that item went through to reach you.

What are the lives like of those in this process?

How do we have access to these things?

How can we be in relationship with them?

Prayer:

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the love you have shown us, and your gift of creation.
We see pain and suffering across the world, and forces that are contrary to your message and vision for the world.

May we be part of the forces in society that nurture love, connection and solidarity and not those that foster isolation, division, and individualism.

Amen.

